

Established 1844.
The Press and Banner
ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Wm. P. GREENE, Editor.

Published Every Wednesday by
The Press and Banner Co.
Telephone No. 10.

Entered as second-class mail matter at post office in Abbeville, S. C.

Terms of Subscription:
One year.....\$1.50
Six months......75
Three months......50
Payable invariably in advance.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1917.

THE INTEREST RATE.

The last people in the state who should object to a lower interest rate are the Building and Loan Associations and their officers. For years a rather exorbitant rate of interest, indirectly collected, has been charged by these Associations and justified on the ground that by so doing the "poor man" was assisted in buying a home.

These people have never said that they were running Building and Loan Associations for the purpose of making money for the stockholders. They have held themselves up as quasi-eleemosynary institutions, operated by certain charitably inclined people for the public benefit. But it would seem that the proposed six per cent. law is about to make them show their hands, and the Building and Loan Association owners are now crying that they cannot MAKE MONEY if the interest rate is lowered.

We are in favor of an amendment to the proposed interest law not allowing these associations to charge over six per cent on any loan. These associations should in fact be what their officers have always claimed that they are—institutions run mostly for the public good, by people who do not care so much for profit as for charity towards their neighbors. A six per cent. law would continue those which do consider the public good, and it would no doubt run out of business those who are money-grabbers.

PROHIBITION.

It seems that the cold weather of the last week or ten days has given the Senators in Columbia "cold feet," and a distinct thirst. We were told sometime ago when the weather was a little warmer that prohibition would be voted in the senate, both "bone dry" and "air tight," whatever those terms imply. But it seems that a quart now looks good to the members of the senate.

There is no telling just what will happen in a great deliberative body like the State Senate, but the indications on Friday, when adjournment was taken, was that the gallon-a-month law was to be changed to a quart-a-month law, and that before a person may have the quart shipped it will be necessary to obtain a permit from the Clerk of Court at a cost of twenty-five cents.

The people who want a little liquor are willing to make almost any concession in order to save themselves, but they had as well realize that John Barleycorn must go, and be done with it.

PROHIBITION LECTURE.

The people of Abbeville have something to look forward to in the lecture of George R. Stuart, to be given in the Court House on next Monday evening at eight o'clock. Mr. Stuart has a national reputation as a humorist and an orator. He comes to Abbeville in the interest of "A Dry America," speaking for the Anti-Saloon League of America. The lecture is without charge and everybody is invited. Persons living in the country and in nearby towns, who can reach Abbeville, will be repaid for the trouble, if they will make the effort to attend.

INCREASING TAXES.

It seems now that about the only result of the meeting of the General Assembly will be an increase in taxes for the present year. If we are not mistaken, the state government was run for something like a million dollars per year twenty years ago. It now takes nearly two and three-quarter millions for this purpose. In the days of good stealing, when the Radicals were in charge of the government, the taxes for all purposes, state, county and municipal in Abbeville, we think, never went over twelve or fifteen mills, but we are now paying nearly four per cent. on the assessed valuation of our property, which

practically means that the government has mortgaged every foot of property in Abbeville for the amount of its assessed value, the mortgage debt drawing about four per cent. interest. And still there are people who want to increase taxes.

We have an idea that the people will not want the services anymore of legislators who favor such increase. The burdens of taxation in this town are now so intolerable that a man who owns a home must work for two months in the year almost in order to pay the taxes on it. With the high cost of living, and the uncertainties growing out of threatened war, and the calamity of the boll weevil upon us, everybody is panic-stricken except the legislators. The members propose to cure all evils by levying more taxes. The sooner we get them home, the safer the country will be.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Antreville, S. C., Feb. 8, 1917.
Mr. Editor:

Probably if one should ask another to specify one thing in which all our people are most interested, nine out of ten would say good roads. This is especially so since automobiles have become so common and so many owners live in town who never give good roads a thought until they come in possession of the auto. So its coming has welded the desire for good roads by town and country.

Now, as a matter of fact under our present system of working roads is it not a fact that when you have one foot of mud and build up on this mud road by putting another foot of mud you have two feet of mud? I am aware that roads can't be made permanent without a large outlay of money in some form, and as far as I know our present Supervisor is doing as well as any other man could do under similar circumstances; hence, I have no fight to make on him.

Bonds? Yes, I am in favor of bonds if money so raised has the proper safe-guards for its being spent, but we haven't even had a chance to vote on bonds and if we do it is not certain we could come such an election. So let's go back to our mud roads, and here is my idea—to tax each automobile in county, say \$10.00 per touring car and \$5.00 for runabout, to be collected by the Treasurer and set aside as a special fund for road work. This tax would raise say \$5,000.00. Now, my idea would be to use so much, or all of this amount for using the drag, dragging all main roads in county, including R. F. D. Routes, as often as necessary.

I estimate that there would be not exceeding 300 miles in the county to be so dragged. On a 30 foot road it will require two round trips to put road in good shape, while on a 16 foot road, one round trip would answer. Four miles and one hand will scrape 6 miles of 30 foot road or 12 miles 16 feet roads in a day. Some should be able to let all roads out at not over one dollar per mile for 30 feet roads and 50c. for 16 feet roads. So you see, Mr. Editor, this 300 miles can be worked 12 times per year, if necessary, and still leave \$1400.00. Have you ever seen the work done by one of these drags? It will beat a road scrape to death when used at the proper time. You see that by this system we will have a special fund to work roads 16 times in one year, if necessary.

Of course I know that there will be those who object—claiming that the farmers in each neighborhood should do this work. Some neighborhoods may be patriotic enough to do so, and probably all neighborhoods ought to do so, but I tell you all neighborhoods will not do it, but when the roads are let out all over the county as stated above then we will have as good roads as mud will make and at low cost. Then the automobiles can go almost any day in the year.

Yours very truly,
S. J. Wakefield.

A PUBLIC APOLOGY.

Roche's Farm, Feb. 12, 1917.

Dear Editor.—I desire to make a public apology to Will Magill, W. D. Wilson and old man Sondley. At various times I have accused these gentlemen of being the poorest set-back players in town, but I have and my mistake. Wide Bradley and J. Davis Kerr have the world beat when it comes to poor playing. I took old man Sondley last Friday evening and gave them a "sitting," expecting that they would give me a pretty fair game. And it seems that they expected to beat us. I hear from President Stark that they always expect to win. Anyway, they had both Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Bradley present to witness the game and Wide went so far as to bring along Little Mabel and the pup. Well, I never hated to humiliate two men as badly in my life and I threw away several games and tried to make it a draw, but old man Sondley had not won a game in so long that I could not hold him down and he gave them the worst drubbing I have witnessed since we used to haul cotton to Hamburg and play at night in camp.

Very truly,
Patrick Roche.

THE D. A. R. PARTY.

The Abbeville chapter of the D. A. R.'s will give a Bridge party at the home of Mrs. Frank B. Gary this afternoon at four o'clock. There will be many tables of players and the money realized will go to some of the many worthy enterprises of the chapter. An admission of twenty five cents will be charged. After the games light refreshments will be served.

INAUGURATION DAY AT THE CAPITAL

Old Fashioned Democracy to Characterize Ceremonies.

BIG PYROTECHNICAL DISPLAY

President Wilson is the First Democrat to Succeed Himself Since the Days of Andrew Jackson—Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Marshall to Accompany Husband in Inaugural Parade.

By FRANK B. LORD.

Washington is rapidly completing its preparations for the second inauguration of Woodrow Wilson as president of the United States. The occasion will present the first instance of a Democratic president succeeding himself in the White House since the days of Andrew Jackson. This is one of the reasons why exceptional efforts are being put forth to make the ceremonies befitting and impressive and at the same time characterized by genuine old fashioned Jeffersonian democracy.

President Wilson has notified the inaugural committee that he does not favor the customary inaugural ball, and accordingly that feature will be eliminated. Instead on the evening following his induction into office there will be presented on the famous White Lot, directly south of the executive mansion, a beautiful pyrotechnic display designed in itself to teach a lesson in patriotism.

Inaugural Takes Place March 5.

Owing to the fact that March 4 falls upon Sunday the ceremonial inauguration of President Wilson will take place on the following day. In order that there may be no lapse of time during which the country will be without an executive head the official oath of office will be administered to President Wilson in private at the White House at noon Sunday, March 4, by Chief Justice White of the supreme court of the United States. Three times before in the history of the country March 4 has fallen on Sunday—in 1821, at the beginning of Monroe's second term; in 1877, when Hayes became president. The formal ceremonies will occur on Monday.

Starting from the White House at 11 o'clock, escorted in carriages by a congressional committee, of which Senator Overman of North Carolina is chairman, the president will proceed to the capitol. For the first time in the history of any inauguration the wife of the president elect will accompany him on the trip. Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall, wife of the vice president elect, will also ride in the carriage with her husband. The president will take the oath of office and deliver his inaugural address on the huge platform erected on the plaza at the east front of the capitol.

Pageant to Be Spectacular.

At the conclusion of the president's address the great spectacular pageant, which the people of Washington have devoted nearly three months in preparing, will start from the capitol and proceed westward on Pennsylvania avenue to Fifteenth street and thence through the grand Court of Honor erected in front of the White House. From the presidential stand in the center of the court Mr. Wilson and Mr. Marshall, together with their wives and members of the cabinet and their wives, the diplomatic corps and prominent officials, will view the parade.

Under the direction of Colonel Robert N. Harper, chairman of the citizens' committee of Washington, the people of the national capital have put forth every effort to make the Wilson inaugural procession not only a grand march of triumph, but a pageant which shall be educational and illustrative of the progress and development of the country. Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, will be grand marshal. Thousands of Uncle Sam's bluejackets and marines and as many soldiers as can be spared from the border will be in line, as well as the middy boys from Annapolis and the cadets from West Point.

"Uncle Sam at Work."

Washingtonians are so adept in making preparations for presidential inaugurations that nothing has been overlooked in providing for the accommodation, comfort and entertainment of thousands of visitors. In addition to the inaugural ceremonies, with the interesting pageant, arrangements have been made for the exhibit during inaugural week of "Uncle Sam at Work." This exhibit will show the activities of the various departments and bureaus of the government. The treasury department will show how paper money and postage stamps are manufactured at the bureau of engraving and printing and gold and silver coins are made at the mints. There will be an interesting display of counterfeiters and counterfeiters by the secret service, and the rescue of life and property will be shown by the coast guard, which now includes the life saving service.

The museum of the dead letter bureau, with its freaks of the mails, will be a feature of the display of the post-office department; the war department will present an intensely interesting exhibit, including methods of national defense, and the navy department will show models of our peerless dreadnaughts, battleships and submarines.

CAN ENGLAND BE STARVED?

(New York Evening Post.)

If German confidence in ruthless sea-warfare is what Bethmann-Hollweg declares it to be, there leaps to the mind the parallel between the criminal invasion of Belgium which began the war and this last adventure into outlawry which is intended to bring it to a speedy close. The excuse in both instances is the same—the law of necessity. The true purpose is the same in both cases—the hope of attaining a swift decision before a surprised world can rally itself. If Paris was taken in four weeks, it mattered little whether England came to the aid of France; she would be too late. If England can be starved out in two or three months, Germany is ready to take the "consequences." In other words the United States might enter the war, but it would be all over before we could make ourselves felt. The question of English resources against starvation is of the essence of the problem. What does "starvation" mean, and how quickly can England be reduced to helplessness? It is a complex problem, and we can deal with it in only the broadest approximations. And since the degree of deprivation which a nation will endure before it collapses is impossible to state, the safest method of approach is to ask, What must the German submarines accomplish in order to reduce England to the condition in which Germany herself stands in the matter of food?

Two arithmetical factors enter into the calculation. The first is that before the outbreak of the war England imported probably two-thirds of her food requirements. The second is that England imported three times as much food per head of the population as Germany did. That is to say, the respective food import needs of the two nations were 66 per cent and 22 per cent. The Allied blockade has virtually cut off German imports. Such food as drifts into Germany from the Scandinavian countries, from Holland and from Switzerland would amount to a very small per centage of her former imports. In other words, the German population has been deprived of nearly 20 per cent of its food requirements for more than two years—and it has not yet been starved into submission. For the English people to suffer the same percentage of deprivation, England must lose a little more than one-third of her food imports. Since food will take precedence even over munitions and troop transport, it follows that England must lose at least one-third of her shipping tonnage now available for trade purposes. At the end of 1916 British merchant shipping was approximately the same as it was at the beginning of the war, a little over twenty million tons. Allow for the diversion of shipping to military uses, and it yet appears that Germany must sink something like five million tons of English ships before England is as near to "starvation" as Germany is today. How many more ships England must lose before she cries for peace—before, that is, she acknowledges the loss of her supremacy on the sea and the end of her empire—is a matter the reader can guess for himself.

This, then, is the basic fact. In order to reduce England to the same pinch of hunger as herself, Germany must sink twice as many tons of British shipping as she has sunk during the first twenty-one months of war. Berlin's own estimate of Britain's merchant marine losses up to the end of 1916 is 2,794,000 tons. Germany must sink three times that amount of tonnage and more before she brings England to her knees; and she must do it, by her own account, in a few months. If she is to accomplish that object in six months, she must sink three times as many ships per month as she has been sinking during the recent period of intensified submarine warfare. If she is to accomplish it in a year, she must increase her submarine activity by 5 per cent. But when we speak of a year we destroy the very foundation of the German case. Even half a year would be fatal to the professed object with which Germany has flung her challenge to the world. As the months roll by and the German people see that process of shortening the war by sea-ruthlessness stretching out even as the process of shortening the war by ruthlessness on land has stretched out for nearly two years and a half, what will become of the unalterable will to conquer? What they will see is that, just as the consequences of the law of necessity in Belgium was war with England, the consequences of the law of necessity may be war with the United States. The Kaiser has staked everything on a sudden stroke. We see just what that sudden stroke must accomplish.

If German confidence is what it professes to be, we must imagine not a "considerable increase" in Germany's submarine strength, as Bethmann-Hollweg put it, but a stupendous increase; an effort and a surprise compared to which Germany's exertions earlier in the war when she was stronger and fresher would be as a child's play. And we must imagine, on the other hand, that in England there has been no anticipation of the peril and no provision for it. We must assume that there is no basis to the stories of huge fleets of small anti-submarine craft which England has been building; that there has been no provision in the form of destroyers and light cruisers for convoy purposes; that there has been no preparation for putting guns on merchantmen. If, on the other hand, we visualize the details of England's probable action in this war to the death, the storing up of food supplies; the enforcement of a food ration; the opening up of new agricultural land; the arming of merchantmen; the maximum effort of a naval Power and an empire for existence, we can see what the Kaiser's U-boats must accomplish to shatter England.

VISITS ATLANTA.

Rev. W. F. Rice, colored, decided a few days ago that he would go over to Atlanta and spend a few days with some friends. These friends resided at Howell's, as he was told, and he thought to get off at this station, but as he was riding on the vestibule, and it did not stop there, he went on into the city.

When he got off at the Terminal Station, he looked around but he was so bewildered by the number of houses that he could not tell just which direction Howell's was. So he asked "a colored gentleman," as he states, to tell him how to get out to Howell's. The "gentleman" kindly agreed, telling him to go with him to a certain corner where he would take a car going in that direction. The preacher was taken about two blocks, and then told that he would get a car at that point. As the car was coming he was told that it was a "pay as you enter" variety, and that he should have his money ready.

The preacher had made the mistake of owning a pocket-book. In this he had all his money, \$27.15, and he was forced to take the pocket-book out in order to get the necessary nickel. When his friend, "the colored gentleman," saw the amount of money in the pocket-book he grabbed it and was gone before the preacher could think of a text for his next Sunday's discourse. He hadn't even gotten out the nickel for the car fare. So, as he tells it, "This put me on the beg."

He finally wandered around in the night, as it was dark by this time, and landed in a place where he wasn't "allowed." He stayed there until morning, however, and

got out and hearing that there was a place where a little charity was handed out, he went up to see about his chances of getting something. He was closely questioned as to his place of residence, his occupation, and the people whom he knew in Abbeville. He was fortunate enough to be acquainted with Mr. Sol. H. Rosenberg, of Abbeville. So he was told to drop back in two or three hours. Not having any better place to spend the time, and the weather being cold, he went to the Terminal Station and took a seat. He stayed there a good while until a policeman asked him if he had his ticket. He told him he did not and undertook to tell his experiences in Atlanta, but the policeman didn't have time to listen, so grabbed him by the collar and kicked him out the door.

When he got back to the Charity Works he found that Mr. Rosenberg had wired him enough money to buy a ticket home, and he came.

He is through with Atlanta, he tells us, but he hopes in view of his treatment in that city that the collection in his church next Sunday will be good. He hasn't made up his mind yet whether he will include the "colored gentleman" who stole his money, and the policeman at the Terminal Station in his morning prayer at that time. He thinks it will take him sometime to get grace enough to recommend them to the Lord.

GETTING RATIONS.

One of the big county wagons kept at the convict camp was in the city Friday. It had hitched to it four three hundred dollar mules when we saw it, and it was loaded with rations for the camp.



Wanted!
MORE FARMER CUSTOMERS

We are amply prepared and equipped to handle the business of several hundred additional farmer customers. The farmer who entrusts his business to this Bank will receive at all times courteous treatment, efficient services and liberal accommodations when needed. He will find our officers interested in his welfare and well acquainted with his requirements.

We cordially invite YOUR business.

Handle your financial transactions in a business-like manner—through this BANK. Deposit your money and pay your bills by check. A cancelled check is a receipt for money paid, and often saves a double payment. BANKING BY MAIL is convenient and satisfactory. The R. F. D. carriers travel every day, rain or shine, good roads or bad. A two-cent stamp often saves a trip to town. TRY THIS PLAN.

THE
Farmers Bank
ABBEVILLE, S. C.

DR. F. E. HARRISON, President.
J. C. THOMSON, Cashier.
OTTO BRISTOW, Asst. Cashier.

Use The Anderson Phosphate and Oil Company's Fish & Blood Guano THIS YEAR.

It is better plant food and lasts longer in the crop making than any other guano. There is nothing better than this and mighty little as good.

It is sold at the same price as the others. See our agents.

We can supply you with potash goods.

W. F. Farmer
Secretary.